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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
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U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY,
RANKING MEMBER

December 12, 2022

The Honorable Michael Connor
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Shalanda D. Young
Director, Office of Management and Budget
The White House
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Assistant Secretary Connor and Director Young:

I write with urgency regarding devastated infrastructure across the coast of Florida's 6th Congressional District from Hurricane Ian (DR-4673-FL) and Hurricane Nicole (EM-3587-FL). Both hurricanes delivered storm surge, beach erosion, and flooding resulting in widespread destruction of hazard mitigating infrastructure and protective measures. The beaches, dunes, and coastal armoring across Volusia, Flagler, and St Johns Counties were compromised by Hurricane Ian and left the coast vulnerable and unprotected for Hurricane Nicole's landfall. In Daytona Beach Shores alone, over two dozen multi-unit residences were deemed uninhabitable by local officials after Hurricane Nicole, displacing an estimated 3,000 individuals.

These back-to-back storms have made clear that additional Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works (USACE) shore protection and stormwater protection projects are needed to safeguard life and property in Volusia, Flagler, and St Johns Counties. As such, I am urging my Congressional colleagues to prioritize a supplemental appropriations bill that includes robust USACE resources, including funding for the Investigations Account, to address damage from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. When supplemental appropriations legislation that considers damages from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole is signed into law, it is critical that the following projects receive Investigations Account funding to initiate and complete feasibility studies in the accompanying Work Plan. I urge your serious consideration of these needed projects that would have mitigated considerable damages from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole:

- City of Daytona Beach Stormwater and Flood Protection
- Volusia County Shore Protection Project
- Flagler County- remaining shoreline excluding active projects
- St Johns County shore protection- from southern reach of St Augustine Shore Protection Project to Flagler County line.
- St Johns County- Summer Haven shore protection

I look forward to continuing the dialogue on the merit of and urgency for initiating these projects. My team and I have been in consistent communication with the Jacksonville District. Please let me know if I can facilitate additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress